

From: Yeager, Mark
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/24/02 9:56am
Subject: Public Comments on the Microsoft Settlement

Dear DOJ,

I have been closely following the antitrust case against Microsoft. I am a software engineer. For the last 15 years I have been writing software for Windows, Unix, Linux, VxWorks, Psos, etc.

The settlement that you have reached with Microsoft is inadequate. Every judge that has read the facts has found Microsoft guilty. The only controversy was over a judge's behavior, not over Microsoft's behavior.

Microsoft abuses their power in the market place to the detriment of the consumer. We are heading towards a time where you can own a computer, but you cannot use it in your own home without paying Microsoft \$200 or \$300 every year. You can own it, but you cannot use it.

I am a capitalist, I believe in the free market, I believe in competition. There is no competition when a market segment is controlled by one monopolist.

I have seen the settlement document. What a load of legalistic bull. It is so convoluted as to be meaningless. It is clear that the Microsoft lawyers wanted it confusing so that they could argue over it in court while the company continues its monopolistic practices. A simple, readable document would be too easy to enforce.

Shame on you. Shame on all of you. Shame on you for falling for the line that the economy would be hurt by furthering competition. Shame on you for not looking out for the little guy, the consumer. If your mothers knew what you have done, they would be embarrassed.

At a minimum the settlement should:

Prohibit different pricing policies for different customers, although pricing can include volume discounts.
Require prices to be posted on a web site available to the public.

Require that Microsoft products be sold for 3 years after a newer version has been introduced.

Require that Microsoft provide service, fixes, and patches for 3 more years after a product is no longer for sale.

Require that computer manufacturers offer the customer a choice of any operating system still available for sale.

Prohibit Microsoft from charging computer manufactures based on number of computers sold. Only charges based on the number of Microsoft products

sold.

Require that Microsoft publish its APIs to its middleware, operating systems, and authentication services.

Prohibit Microsoft from using any secret API for its products that interface with its middleware, operating systems or authentication services.

Require Microsoft to publish the APIs 6 months before a new version of middleware, operating system or authentication service is offered for sale.

Establish an independent testing body that will create tests for new Microsoft middleware, operating systems, or authentication services to test that the published APIs in fact are correct for the middleware or operating systems. Product release could be held up if the API does not match what was documented.

Prohibit Microsoft from requiring product registration over the web, that phone-in registration must be supported in a timely and convenient manner.

Sincerely,

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